

LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE SOURCE TAX

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, States with a source tax levy a tax on the retirement income of retirees who no longer reside in the State. Thousands of seniors across the country receive tax bills from States even though many of these retirees have not lived in that State for years. In every Congress since 1988, I have introduced legislation to prohibit the source tax.

I was very pleased last spring, when the Senate unanimously passed a source tax bill. I was even more pleased when, in the final week of the 103d Congress, the House also passed a bill to prohibit the source tax. Unfortunately, the Senate and House versions were not identical and there was no time for a conference.

Today I am again introducing a proposal to prohibit the source tax. The bill I am introducing will exempt all retirement income from State income tax if the individual receiving the income is not a resident of the State. This legislation will not place any cost on the Federal Government and may even cause a modest increase in Federal revenues.

This measure differs in two ways from the bill I sponsored in the 103d Congress. That bill included a cap on the amount of lump-sum distributions exempted from the source tax. My new bill will have no caps. Also, for the 104th Congress the measure covers all retirement plans, not just those that qualify for special tax treatment by the Federal Government. These changes, which extend the measure to all retirement income, make the bill more fair because it will treat all retirees equally.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support me in this cause. Retirees across the Nation will thank you.

TOWN OF SCHODACK CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL IN 1995

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it's been my privilege since entering Congress in 1979 to return home nearly every weekend.

That's not only a wise policy for a Member of Congress, it's good for a Member's peace of mind. It's necessary to get away from this artificial world of Washington, DC, and get back to the real world where real people have real jobs and raise real families.

Our 22d district is a largely rural area, and it is the tried and true virtues of our small towns and villages that have made this country great, as recognized as early as the 1830s by French visitor Alexis de Tocqueville. And today, I'd like to single out one of those communities, the Rensselaer County town of Schodack.

Schodack will celebrate its bicentennial in 1995, a celebration that will culminate in a gala-dinner dance on March 18.

Having visited Schodack many times during my 16 years of Congress and 6 years in the

State assembly, I can personally vouch for the town's embodiment of all of those smalltown virtues, the hard work, the patriotism, the spirit of volunteerism and helping one's neighbor.

Notwithstanding my new duties as chairman of the House Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker, I still intend to return home as many weekends as possible to visit the good people of Schodack and all the other small communities that will always reflect the true heart and true character of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and other Members to join me in congratulating the town of Schodack on this occasion of its 200th birthday.

EMPLOYEE COMMUTE OPTION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today is truly a landmark day in the history of this country. On November 8, the citizens spoke out against big government and unfunded mandates.

We have a unique opportunity to curtail many, if not all, unfunded mandates this Congress. One key mandate is the employee trip reduction contained in the Clean Air Act of 1990.

If you thought the electorate was angry in November, wait until they hear about this restriction on their ability to drive their own car to work. The employee trip reduction, known also as the employee commute option, requires businesses with over 100 employees in certain areas to force their employees to carpool to work. Thus, the employee commute option is really a misnomer, because if the States do not enforce this mandate, they stand to lose much needed highway funding. In my own State of Illinois, that is \$700 million in the balance.

In other words, implement mandated carpooling, or else. That's not much of an option.

Affected areas are designated "severe" nonattainment regions based on 1987-1988-1989 statistics, even though recent data shows these regions have cleaned-up their air before these mandates take effect.

The bill I am introducing today allows the States to decide if they want carpooling to be part of their clean air plan. It will not change the goals of the Clean Air Act but simply gives States the option to utilize carpooling as a tool to help clean the air in their specific region.

My legislation sends a message to the EPA that the voters voiced back in November—we need common sense and flexibility in the law.

In Illinois, it is estimated that this mandate alone will only reduce air pollution levels by an average of 1 percent. That small percentage has a price tag estimated at \$200 million for businesses to enforce. This is a huge price tag, for a very small benefit. There are cheaper and better ways to achieve the same goals, but the States should have the flexibility to figure that out.

Please join me and the many Members who have cosponsored my bill in giving the States back the authority to improve their own air quality. Cosponsor and pass my bill to make the employee commute option truly an option.

BASEBALL FANS AND COMMUNITIES PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Baseball Fans and Communities Protection Act of 1995. It is time that Congress finally steps up to the plate and ends baseball's antitrust exemption which is at the root of the current strike and which has hijacked the national pastime away from the fans and communities that have supported it for so long.

Professional baseball is the only industry in the United States that is exempt from the antitrust laws without being subject to alternative regulatory supervision. There may have been a time when this unique treatment under our antitrust laws was a source of pride and distinction for the many who loved the game. But that time has ended. The continuing baseball strike of 1994—which ended the regular season, which ended the possibility of a World Series for the first time in 90 years and which has very nearly ended the love affair of the American people with their national pastime—has now become the Baseball strike of 1995. If Congress fails to take swift action in the 104th Congress, this lingering strike has the strong potential to destroy yet another season; and I, for one, am not going to stand by passively and watch that happen.

I am proud that the House Judiciary Committee at the close of the last Congress voted to repeal the nonstatutory antitrust exemption created by an anomalous Supreme Court decision in 1922. That decision created the notion that baseball somehow did not involve "interstate commerce" and thus was beyond the reach of the Federal Antitrust laws. The committee acted to end this illusion, which has now spawned very real and devastating economic consequences for our citizens.

The bill I am introducing responds to the current phase of the recurring labor crisis in baseball in a very limited, yet crucial, way: By subjecting the players' union and the owners to the Nation's antitrust laws in the event one party unilaterally imposes an anticompetitive term or condition of employment on the other. As introduced, the bill exempts minor league baseball from the scope of its coverage. It may be that the current situation will demand an even stronger response and a broader repeal. But, in my judgment, this is an appropriate starting point for developing a bipartisan consensus on the issue in the committee and in the full house.

The end result of baseball's special treatment has been the perpetuation of a closed, cartelized industry in which the few, incumbent club owners possess inordinate economic power and every other party—players, fans, municipalities, minor league club owners, potential expansion investors—remain economically marginalized. In a very real sense, the competitive landscape of major league baseball in 1995 resembles the very type of business arrangements that spurred Congress to enact the antitrust laws in the 1890's.

I am gratified by the bipartisan support received for this legislation in the last Congress, and the prospect that both sides of the aisle can work productively together to have swift